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COUNTRY Poland REPORT NO.

TOPIC Polish Troop Training Grounds in the Area Southwest of Warszawa (Szczotyko)

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REFERENCES

PAGES 1 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS This is UNEVALUATED

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- 2 -

2. The Muschaken railroad station was greatly improved. New loading ramps were observed east of the station, on the road to Willenberg (R 54/E 91) which crossed the training grounds. By April 1954, the improvement of the railroad station was not completed. All highways in the area around the training grounds were in good condition.
3. In 1951, the training grounds were first occupied by minor Polish Army units which bivouacked in tents. No record firing practices were held in that year nor were the grounds off-limits. For the first time in 1952, guns were observed in emplacements near the town of Omulefoten. KEM (Internal Security) patrols were seen in the same year and road blocks were also erected. In the summer of 1953, numerous troops practiced on the training grounds. They were billeted in the Muschaken area, in the wooded areas between Malga and Ortelsburg, and, in particular, in the Seedanzig (R 54/E 93) area. In 1953, soldiers trying to buy food from the population said that in this year numerous soldiers serving 3-month terms were trained together with soldiers serving their regular term of service. Military training was generally discontinued about mid-October 1953. From early November 1953 to about 10 March 1954, artillery units were rotated to the installation. During this period, record firing practices were held almost continuously. Most emplacements were located in the Wallendorf-Ulleschen area, from which location the guns fired in the direction of Malga and Kannwiesen. Other emplacements were located in The Roggen area, from which the guns fired in a northern direction. The practices apparently involved guns of all calibers. The soldiers rotated to the training grounds in the summer of 1953 and during the record firing practices in the 1953/1954 winter said that they came from Warsaw, Poznan (O 53/X 26), Allenstein (R 54/E 66) and other stations. The winter firing practices definitely also involved artillery units from Torun (Q 54/J 39).
4. In the summer of 1953, a major exercise commenced far outside the eastern boundary of the training grounds and terminated in the area around Malga. Tanks mounted by infantrymen and coming from the direction of Seedanzig attacked toward the southwest. They were followed by a second wave of trucks occupied by infantrymen and some full-track vehicles on which soldiers were also riding. This second wave was followed by motorized artillery units which included some tanks. Off Grosswalde the trucks and track-laying vehicles were parked in concealment. Tanks and the infantrymen who had left their vehicles continued attacking the enemy positions on the western bank of the Omulef Rivulet. They crossed the river. Subsequently, battle noise was heard from the woods near Malga and the direction of the town of Malga. The exercise involved three single-engine aircraft which supported the assault troops by low-level attacks at intervals of 30 to 45 minutes. It was noticed that the deployed infantry formations were far extended in width and depth. The artillery emplacements of the attacking group were located in the Grosswalde area. In the summer of 1953, minor exercises were frequently observed on the training grounds and in its vicinity. They included the establishing and shifting of radio stations, the construction and dismantling of field telephone lines, and attack practices by minor infantry units. Troops attacking

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during these infantry exercises were usually followed by an armed officer who apparently kept the attacking soldiers moving. Other officers were in the attacking lines.

5. Officials of the local administration at Omulefofen said that special supply depots had been established near the troop training grounds at undetermined points. The practicing soldiers said that they received one hot meal per day. During full-day exercises this hot meal was replaced by a cold meal which usually consisted of bread, salt fish and some sugar.
6. Beginning on 1 May 1954, the troop training grounds were scheduled to be reoccupied by numerous troops of all branches of the Polish Army.

Comment. The existence of the new training grounds was known previously. It is believed that in the summer of 1954 the installation is mainly at the disposal of the 15th and 18th Inf Divs. These two divisions are presumably subordinate to an army corps headquarters in Allenstein which belongs to the 2d Military District in Bydgoszcz. In the summer of 1953, the Polish-occupied part of East Prussia belonged to the 1st Military District in Warsaw.

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